CEREMONY
AND
RADIO BROADCAST

MAIN AQUEDUCT COMPLETION
OCTOBER 14, 1939

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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To Ida Floyd Whitsett

Compliments

D. Whitsett

Jan 1 1940.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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MAIN AQUEDUCT COMPLETION CEREMONY

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October 14, 1939

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MAIN AQUEDUCT COMPLETION CEREMONY

October 14, 1939

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Chairman of the Day introduced by
Director Otto J. Emme. Mr. Emme speaks.

Ladies and Gentlemen --- The Chairman of the Day -- Mr. Victor H. Rossetti, member of the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Board. Mr. Rossetti...

Introductory Statement by Chairman of the Day

Ladies and Gentlemen --- We are gathered here today to witness and to participate in the completion of the main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct. Sixteen years ago, under the direction of William Mulholland, the first survey parties moved out upon the barren reaches of the Colorado River Desert country to search out the best, the most practicable, and the most economical route for an aqueduct that would deliver water from the Colorado River to the communities on the Coastal Plain of Southern California. Eight years ago the people of the thirteen cities of the Metropolitan Water District marched to the polls and, by the overwhelming majority of five to one, voted a bond issue of $220,000,000 to finance the construction of the most gigantic water supply system on the face of the earth.

Somewhat more than six years ago actual work of building the aqueduct was set under way. From that time to this moment the work has gone forward twenty-four hours a day. The dreams of our people and the plans of our engineers have been transformed, at last, into an everlasting structure of concrete and steel.

Within just a few moments the last cubic yard of concrete will be placed on the main aqueduct. It will complete the building of the transition structure upon which I am now standing - a transition structure which connects the West Portal of the San Jacinto Tunnel and the Casa Loma Siphon.

In the building of this great water supply system the people of our District cities have provided for themselves an abundant and permanent supply of good water. The aqueduct will bring to our cities a quantity of water far greater than our immediate needs. But the aqueduct is not being built for the present alone. It is being built for the present and for countless generations to follow. In the building of this aqueduct the people of our District cities have written for themselves a perpetual insurance policy -- an insurance policy that will insure our homes, our industries, and our business enterprises against the possibility of a future water shortage. No one of us questions the protection afforded us by adequate fire insurance, and yet, I say to you here today, the value and the necessity for water insurance is infinitely greater and more vitally needed than any fire insurance we could ever have. For without the assurance of a present and future supply of water the values of our homes, our factories, and our business enterprises are utterly wiped away.

The exercises by which we are to mark the completion of the main aqueduct shall be brief and simple. The first order of business will be the placing of the last concrete on the main aqueduct. More than 4,000,000 cubic yards of concrete have gone into the construction of this main Colorado River Aqueduct. Today, the members of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District will have the privilege and the honor of placing with their own hands the last concrete on this big job. In contrast to the millions of cubic yards of concrete that have been placed on the aqueduct by huge, modern machines, this small bit of concrete will be shoveled into place by hand. It will go into this form here before me and will complete the last segment of the transition structure upon which I am now standing. Mr. B. C. Leadbetter is the General Superintendent on this job. I will ask Mr. Leadbetter if he and his men are ready to proceed with their part of the job. (Pause)

First of all, the major part of the concrete will be placed by the regular crew and their pumpcrete machine. (Pause)

I should like to ask the members of the Board of Directors who are assembled here to come forward, and as their names are called - one after the other - each of the directors will place a shovelful of concrete into this form here before me.

Mr. W. P. Whitsett,
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
and one of the representatives on the Board
for the City of Los Angeles.

Mr. Franklin Thomas,
Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors,
and the representative for the City of Pasadena.

Colonel S. H. Finley,
Secretary of the Board of Directors,
and the representative for the City of Santa Ana.

Director E. P. Hapgood for the City of Anaheim.

Director Arthur Taylor for the City of Beverly Hills.

Director Warren W. Butler for the City of Compton.

Director Walter Humphreys for the City of Fullerton.

Director Herman Nelson for the City of Glendale.

Director William M. Cook for the City of Long Beach.

Director Otto J. Emme for the City of Los Angeles.

Director Perry H. Greer for the City of Los Angeles.

Director Louis S. Nordlinger for the City of Los Angeles.

Director John H. Ramboz for the City of San Marino.

Director Arthur P. Creel for the City of Santa Monica.

As the representative of the District's engineering and administrative organization, I ask Mr. Julian Hinds to participate in the placing of this last concrete. And as the man who is directing the actual construction of this, the last link on the main aqueduct and also as a representative of the great army of men who have helped to build the aqueduct, I ask Mr. Leadbetter also to participate.

After placing shovelful of concrete in form,
Mr. Leadbetter hands shovel to Mr. Rossetti and speaks.

The Chairman of the Day has overlooked himself. Mr. Victor H. Rossetti, Director for Los Angeles....

Mr. Rossetti speaks.

At this point I believe that it is fitting and proper that we should receive from our General Manager and Chief Engineer a report of his stewardship -- a report of the work that has been accomplished in the planning and building of the Colorado River Aqueduct. I am sorry, as I know all are, that Mr. Weymouth is unable personally to be with us here today. I shall, therefore, ask that Mr. Weymouth's report be read to us at this time by Mr. Julian Hinds, the Assistant Chief Engineer of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Mr. Julian Hinds...

Report read by Mr. Hinds.

Mr. Rossetti speaks.

Thank you Mr. Hinds.

The spot upon which we are gathered here today is one of double significance. It is the place where we have had the unforgettable experience of witnessing the actual completion of the main aqueduct. Furthermore, it is the point on the great aqueduct system where Colorado River water, after passing over more than 200 miles of desert and mountain country, comes, at last, to flow onto the Coastal Plain of Southern California.

To commemorate the historic event in which we are participating today, and to mark the point where Colorado River

water flows onto our Coastal Plain, the District has erected a bronze plaque. The plaque has been embedded in this concrete structure directly over the West Portal of the San Jacinto Tunnel. The next order of business, therefore, will be the unveiling of this commemorative plaque.

The young lady and the young man who have been given the honor of unveiling the commemorative plaque are children of the aqueduct. They are Mistress Molly Skamnes, six years of age, and Master "Bizzy" Dunton, also six years of age. The father of little Miss Skamnes is an electrician on the aqueduct job, and Molly was born in Indio where her parents were residing close to her father's work. The father of young Mr. Dunton is a construction workman on the aqueduct, and "Bizzy" was born in Ontario where his parents were living to be near the section of the aqueduct on which his father was then employed.

Molly Skamnes -- and -- "Bizzy" Dunton. Will you please proceed with the business of unveiling the commemorative plaque.

Mr. Rossetti speaks.

I should like to call upon Director Otto J. Emme to read to us the wording which appears upon the plaque.

Director Emme reads wording on plaque.

Mr. Rossetti speaks.

I note that in reading the roster of the Board of Directors Mr. Emme omitted one name, and that is the name of Director Otto J. Emme.

Among the men who have served and are now serving on the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California there is none who has given more freely of his time and his energies than the Chairman of our Board. Mr. W. P. Whitsett has been the Chairman of the Board since the permanent organization of the District. He knows the value and the vital importance of water in Southern California. He has performed a great public service in forcefully and repeatedly directing the attention of our people to the necessity of providing an adequate water supply. I have the pleasure at this time to introduce Chairman W. P. Whitsett of the District's Board of Directors. Mr. Whitsett...

Address by Mr. Whitsett

Mr. Rossetti speaks.

Thank you Mr. Whitsett.

The toil of more than 35,000 men and women has built the Colorado River Aqueduct. Employment records of the District reveal the exact number to be 35,648. They are the unsung soldiers of a great peace-time army that has built for our

people a life-line of water. Today the names of these men and women are to be placed within the imperishable wall of this aqueduct structure. And with these names there shall be placed a number of historical records that tell the story of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and its works up to this date.

I should like to call upon Vice Chairman Franklin Thomas and Secretary S. H. Finley of the Board of Directors to carry forward the emplacement of these official records.

Mr. Thomas reads from the records and passes them to Secretary Finley, who places them in the copper box.

While handing over the records, Mr. Thomas speaks.

From the official employment files of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, copies of the District's monthly employment reports giving the names, the home addresses and the classifications of 35,648 men and women who have worked to build the Colorado River Aqueduct.

The names of the present and former members of the Board of Directors, the members of the boards of Consulting Engineers, and the administrative, executive, and technical staff of the District.

A list of the contractors and contractors' superintendents engaged in the construction of the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Selected copies of the District's official publication, The Colorado River Aqueduct News, containing reports of important and significant steps made in the construction of the aqueduct.

A copy of the District's 1939 report on the Colorado River Aqueduct.

A copy of the History and First Annual Report of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

A copy of the Report of the General Manager and Chief Engineer on the Preliminary Surveys, Designs and Estimates on the Colorado River Aqueduct and the Final Report of the Engineering Board of Review.

A copy of the organic law of the District, the Metropolitan Water District Act, adopted by the California State Legislature in 1927.

Mr. Thomas and Mr. Finley place the copper box in the niche.

Mr. Rossetti speaks.

Engineers may prepare masterful plans. Public officials may offer wise counsel concerning the needs of our people -- but, without the clear vision and the indomitable courage of an enlightened public, a project such as this aqueduct can never be brought to reality. Among the private citizens and civic leaders of Southern California, there is

one man who for years has stood in the front rank of those who have never failed to answer the call of public service. This man was one of the early advocates of the aqueduct project. Consistently and unfalteringly he has supported the project, from its early formative years up to the present day. I have the happy privilege at this moment to present to you one of California's most distinguished citizens -- Mr. Joseph Scott.

Address by Mr. Joseph Scott

Mr. Rossetti speaks.

Thank you Mr. Scott.

As we approach the close of these exercises, I desire to announce that following the completion of this ceremony an opportunity will be given the members of the official party and to the other visitors who may desire to do so to inspect a section of the San Jacinto Tunnel and the Casa Loma Siphon.

At 6 o'clock this evening the Columbia Broadcasting System will broadcast a program devoted to the historical significance of the completion of the main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct. A part of the program will emanate from this spot. In Southern California, the program will be sent out by Radio Station K N X from 6 to 6:30 o'clock this evening.

And now -- will all of you who are seated please stand. Our task here today has been completed -- and here and now we dedicate this main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct to the everlasting service of our people. May the Almighty God bless this achievement of man and forever guide the hands and the hearts of those it shall serve.

Trumpet rendition of the National Anthem
by Bob Haver, Stanton Irvine, and Ted Wiegel,
students of Pasadena Junior College.

Report by F. E. Weymouth
General Manager and Chief Engineer
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

MAIN AQUEDUCT COMPLETION CEREMONY

October 14, 1939

With the pouring of the last concrete on the transition structure at the West Portal of the San Jacinto tunnel, construction of the main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct has been completed.

First work on the construction of the Colorado River Aqueduct was set under way on December 29, 1932. Since that date construction operations have progressed without interruption. Work on the driving of the aqueduct tunnels and on many other features of the job was carried forward by changing shifts working 24 hours a day.

Since the first crews of aqueduct workmen went into the field six years and eight months ago, the District has completed the construction of 92 miles of tunnels, 63 miles of concrete-lined canals, 55 miles of concrete, covered conduits, 29 miles of inverted siphons, Gene Wash Dam, the Copper Basin Dam, five pumping plants, 237 miles of transmission lines operating at 230,000 volts and erected for the purpose of delivering power from Boulder Dam to the five aqueduct pumping plants.

In addition to the completion of construction work on the main aqueduct, the District has proceeded with the building of the distributing system, that will deliver water from the Cajalco Reservoir to the District cities. The

aqueduct's initial distributing system is now 70 per cent completed. Features of the distributing system now finished and ready for service include the Cajalco dam and dike, and all other appurtenant works in connection with the Cajalco Reservoir, and 16 miles of tunnels, and 85 miles of pipe lines.

Late this year construction work is scheduled to be under way on a water softening and filtration plant, with an initial capacity of 100,000,000 gallons per day. All aqueduct water delivered to the District's cities will be softened and filtered. Consumers of aqueduct water are therefore assured of receiving water of the highest quality and considerably softer than the average water now in use in the District cities.

On January 7 of this year the first water was pumped into the Colorado River Aqueduct, when the Intake pumping plant was placed in operation and delivered the first water into the Gene Wash Reservoir. Since that date each of the other four pumping plants has been tested and water has been delivered, as far west as the Hayfield Reservoir, 126 miles west of the aqueduct intake.

With the completion of the last link on the main aqueduct today, the way is cleared for the delivery of aqueduct water into Cajalco Reservoir. Within two or three weeks aqueduct water will be flowing onto the Coastal Plain of Southern California and into the Cajalco Reservoir.

Within about a year the District will be prepared to begin the delivery of softened and filtered water to District cities.

Employment records of the District reveal that 35,648 residents of the cities comprising The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have been employed on the aqueduct project.

In 1931, prior to the voting of the aqueduct bond issue, it was estimated that the aqueduct system contemplated under the bond issue would cost $218,844,000. Today the main aqueduct has been completed, and a major portion of the distributing system has been constructed. With this work behind us, I am deeply gratified to be able to report to you that the actual cost of the aqueduct system contemplated under the 1931 bond issue is approximately $20,000,000 less than the original estimate.

The successful completion of the main aqueduct within the estimated time and under the estimated cost has been made possible by the loyalty and high degree of efficiency of the thousands of men and women whose toil has wrought this project into a reality, and it has been made possible by the sound judgment and unswerving integrity of the Board of Directors. Jobs on the aqueduct, high and low, have been filled on the basis of ability, and without regard to political pull or favoritism. To this policy the Board of Directors steadfastly has given its support. Materials and equipment used on the aqueduct have been purchased solely on the basis of quality and price, under a strict system of competitive bidding.

The citizens and taxpayers of the Metropolitan Water District have a right to be proud of their Board of Directors.

Through its wise decisions and its refusal to yield to pressure of special interests, the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has given to the people a full dollar's worth of value for every dollar expended on the Colorado River Aqueduct.

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Text of Commemorative Plaque Read by Director Otto J. Emme.

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THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

COLORADO RIVER AQUEDUCT

Transition structure connecting West Portal San Jacinto Tunnel and Casa Loma Siphon. Last structure on Main Aqueduct to be completed. October 14, 1939.

Length, Main Aqueduct, 242 miles; Initial Distribution System, 150 miles; ultimate capacity, one billion gallons per day.

Here Colorado River water enters the Coastal Plain of Southern California to serve the cities and areas within The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

W. P. Whitsett, Chairman
Board of Directors

Franklin Thomas, Vice Chairman
Board of Directors

S. H. Finley, Secretary
Board of Directors

F. E. Weymouth
General Manager and Chief Engineer

District Cities and Directors

Anaheim.....E. P. Hapgood
Beverly Hills..Arthur Taylor
Burbank.....J. L. Norwood
Compton.....Warren W. Butler
Fullerton...Walter Humphreys
Glendale.....Herman Nelson
Long Beach.....W. M. Cook
Los Angeles.....Otto J. Emme
Los Angeles...Perry H. Greer
Los Angeles..Louis S. Nordlinger
Los Angeles.....D. W. Pontius
Los Angeles.....John R. Richards
Los Angeles.....V. H. Rossetti
Los Angeles.....W. P. Whitsett
Pasadena.....Franklin Thomas
San Marino.....John H. Ramboz
Santa Ana.....S. H. Finley
Santa Monica.....Arthur P. Creel
Torrance.....Charles T. Rippy

Address by Chairman W. P. Whitsett, Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

MAIN AQUEDUCT COMPLETION CEREMONY

October 14, 1939

Mr. Rossetti, Ladies and Gentlemen:---We who are gathered here today are standing in the presence of an historic event. We have witnessed the actual completion of the main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct, the greatest construction job of its kind ever to be brought to successful completion in America.

"The main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct has been completed." This is the report - this is the message which we today are able to give to the citizens of the thirteen golden cities which comprise The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. This is the report which we today are able to give to all the world. This is the report which we are able to give to those who, in years gone by, have said, "It can't be done."

Back of this report of accomplishment stand twenty years of bold and practical dreams of a mighty water supply system that will forever free the cities of the Metropolitan Water District from the menace of drought. Twenty years of careful, expert planning by the most competent and able group of engineering authorities ever assembled on a similar project. Twenty years of tireless work on the part of public spirited citizens who have given their unwavering support to the end that a vital and essential public enterprise might be successfully

consummated. And finally, during the past seven years of this period -- all these dreams and these plans have been wrought into a gigantic structure of reality by the toil and the loyalty of the great army of aqueduct workmen who have now brought to completion the actual construction of the major part of a gigantic water supply system that will bring an everlasting flood of life-giving water from the Colorado River to each of the cities within The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

The completion of the main aqueduct today signalizes the final victory in the long war that our people have waged against the Desert and against the menace of Drought. It is a war that has been won by a great peace-time army of citizens and workers. It has been a war of constructive planning and building - and not a war of destruction and devastation. In the winning of this war our great army of aqueduct builders have used 7,000,000 barrels of cement - but they have not used this cement to build forts, and trenches and pill boxes for the emplacement of cannon and machine guns. They have used it to build an everlasting water supply system extending 392 miles from the Colorado River to the thirteen cities of the Metropolitan Water District. In the winning of this war our aqueduct builders have used 283,000 tons of steel. But they have not used it to build weapons of destruction and death. They have used it to reinforce and strengthen a great life-giving water supply system that will forever sustain and enrich our children and our children's children in this favored land. In the

winning of this war our aqueduct builders have used 20,000,000 pounds of dynamite and high explosives. But they have not used it to destroy cities and homes and to kill and injure defenseless women and children. They have used it to blast away the stubborn mountain barriers that stood in the pathway of a life-line of water - water now ready to flow through these mountain barriers and onto the Coastal Plain of Southern California.

Within the next few days the main aqueduct will be ready to begin the delivery of water into the Cajalco Reservoir. A number of months hence the aqueduct's distribution system will be ready to deliver this new water supply to the gates of the thirteen cities of the Metropolitan Water District.

The Colorado River Aqueduct has been built for an ultimate capacity of 1500 second feet - or approximately one billion gallons of water a day. It is the largest single domestic water supply system in America. It is a water supply system which has its source in the vast snow-covered western slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Today, with the completion of the main aqueduct accomplished, the people of our thirteen District cities are secure in the knowledge that they possess a water supply surpassed by no other section of America. It is a water supply, first of all, that assures our thirteen cities an abundant quantity of water forever to sustain our present development - and to support and encourage a new and golden era of growth and expansion. The homeseeker may build his home and settle his family and his business in any one of the thirteen District cities with the absolute assurance of a bountiful

supply of good water available for his use at reasonable rates. The industrialist may invest his capital in any one of our thirteen District cities with absolute security against any possibility of a shortage of water, now or in the future.

Furthermore, the completion of the main aqueduct today gives our people a permanent and a controlled supply of water. Back of this aqueduct system stands Boulder Dam and Lake Mead, capable of storing 30,000,000 acre feet of water and today actually holding in storage more than 20,000,000 acre feet. And back of Lake Mead stands the vast water shed of the snow-covered western slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

The everlasting wealth and security that have thus been brought to the people of our thirteen District cities are the fruits of our people's clear vision to see and recognize their needs -- and the indomitable courage to authorize the undertaking of a herculean task. Our people gave decisive evidence of this vision and courage when they voted by the overwhelming majority of 5 to 1 a bond issue of $220,000,000 to finance the building of the aqueduct. Countless are the men and women of our communities who through their leadership and their support have made possible the accomplishment of the aqueduct project. Among those to whom we are especially indebted are the Directors - past and present - from the thirteen District cities. These men have given unsparingly of their time and best efforts without salary or thought of reward beyond the satisfaction of helping to get a big job well done. And here let us pause in tribute to the memory of those who

were taken from us before this hour of victory.

Foremost among the men whose vision and works made possible this great day for us are W. B. Mathews and William Mulholland. The public services they rendered to our people shall live forever in the minds and the hearts of generations to come. As Special Counsel of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, W. B. Mathews was one who did as much as - or more than - any other to formulate and secure the passage of the Boulder Canyon Project Act by the Congress of the United States. He later became the General Counsel for The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. It was his wise counsel and his tireless efforts which guided and crowned with success the organization of this District and helped immeasurably to clear the pathway for this gigantic water project in its early days. William Mulholland is the father of our great water supply systems in Southern California. As the builder of the Owens River Aqueduct he brought to Los Angeles the water that has made possible its amazing growth from a small community to the metropolis of the Pacific Coast. It was William Mulholland who saw the vital need of a still greater supply of water to meet the future requirements not only of Los Angeles but of all of this metropolitan area. And it was he who pointed to the Colorado River as the one available source for the additional water we must have. Under his direction the first engineering studies and surveys for the Colorado River Aqueduct were set under way in 1923.

When the Metropolitan Water District was established in 1928 it took up the work that had been carried forward in preceding years by William Mulholland and his able engineering associates and assistants.

To direct and push forward the huge and complex task of planning and building the aqueduct, the District Board of Directors sought the best qualified engineer in America. They found that man in Frank E. Weymouth. As Chief Engineer of the United States Bureau of Reclamation for many years, Mr. Weymouth was intimately familiar with the problems of the Colorado River before he took over his duties as the Chief Engineer of the District. Under Mr. Weymouth's direction there has been brought to the service of the District an organization of engineering, technical and administrative authorities whose unsurpassed ability speaks for itself in the great aqueduct system we see completed today. We of the Board of Directors are proud of the great public service that has been rendered by Frank E. Weymouth and his staff. We are proud of the loyalty and the efficiency of the army of office and field workers who have built this aqueduct system. We believe the people of California join us in this pride and in our thanks.

Today, as we look back over the long years that our people have planned and worked to bring to a reality the Colorado River Aqueduct, we realize, at last, that we are standing on the threshold of a new and golden era for the cities and areas that come to share in the use of this bountiful

new supply of water. We lift up our eyes and look out over the rich expanse of the Coastal Plain of Southern California - and we see that it has just begun to grow and to prosper as a favored land of heart's desire. At last the way has been cleared - the structures have been built. Through the portal of this tunnel which pierces the towering barrier of Mt. San Jacinto there now shall come a constant, abundant, controlled supply of water. Water - the priceless possession of a desert land. Water - to build and sustain a new Empire upon the shores of the Pacific.

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Excerpts from Address by Mr. Joseph Scott

MAIN AQUEDUCT COMPLETION CEREMONY

October 14, 1939

It is perhaps not unseemly that somebody should appear on this program in behalf of the millions of the people to be benefited by the consummation of this great enterprise. As a humble representative of this and future generations which will participate in the abundance of this water, I rise to express my profound and heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Whitsett who as the head of the Commission for this great work served without any compensation whatever in the leadership of this magnificent accomplishment; to Victor Rossetti, who has left laborious duties of exacting character, and to the other members of the Board of Directors who have served continuously without pay, that you and I might be the beneficiaries of their public-spirited sacrifice.

I am glad to note the references made by Mr. Whitsett to the vision of Bill Mulholland, who not only saw the Sierra Nevadas as the storehouse and reservoir for the Owens River Aqueduct but went beyond that range to the slopes of the Rocky Mountains to give us the benefit of this abundant water from the Colorado River.

People talk today about the efficiency of Germany, about the man-power of Russia, and over the waste of water from Europe we get these people trying to impregnate into the American homes the idea that we are a decadent or an inferior

race. Let this magnificent enterprise, the success of which we celebrate today, be a stirring answer to that absurd criticism.

Not only the Directors of the Board, but the galaxy of skillful engineers, to say nothing about the tin-hatted, hard-rock miners who pushed this San Jacinto tunnel through the mountain without a hair's breadth of an inch of deviation from either side of it; to say nothing about the thousands of other employees of every grade - all united in a magnificent solidarity of purpose to bring to us the realization of this day's triumph, which should stimulate us to say, as I feel in the bottom of my heart, "We can get along without Europe and its politics and subversive influences."

As we are standing here on the free soil of America, in my heart of hearts I am saying to you all, I am proud to be an American! And that is good enough as a gospel for the best of you.

I hope the success of this magnificent project will be hailed in the classrooms of our schools and colleges to let the American people of today stimulate and increase their faith in America, in its manhood, in its womanhood and in its children, brought from all the ends of the earth, of all the races and bloods of humanity, who are working here to build up a new Nation and a new Race, and throwing all the enmities and jealousies and hatreds of Europe far from us.

God bless America, and God save California!

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Radio Broadcast

MAIN AQUEDUCT COMPLETION

Columbia Broadcasting System

6:00 to 6:30 p.m., October 14, 1939

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"WATER SERIES"

PROGRAM NUMBER NINE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1939 6:00 - 6:30 P.M.

(STUDIO OPENING)

ANNOUNCER: (COLD) The greatest job ever undertaken by man is finished! This evening, the Western Division of Columbia's Department of Public Affairs again takes its men and microphones to the scene of Southern California's historic battle for water! Nine times in the past, we have taken you to the front line of this struggle in which man has been fighting the forces of nature. Through Columbia's microphones you have followed the relentless fight for water from the very first dynamite blast in 1933. From the lofty arches of great dams you have been given the picture of a rampant river halted and forced back to form lakes of clear water in the heart of the desert...Through these microphones you have heard that water roar through giant turbines to send over the transmission lines, the power which was to help create a man-made river across a burning desert. Step by step Columbia's field crews have described for you, the building of the mammoth Metropolitan Water District Aqueduct of Southern California. Side by side with the representatives of the thirteen coastal cities

(CONTINUED)

ANNOUNCER: (Cont'd) financing this world famous project, you of the listening audience have been present at the victorious moments in the progress of construction. At your radio, you were able to hear the first of the huge pumping plants go into action, far out on the desert shore of Lake Havasu, above Parker Dam ....From there, all along the westward line of the aqueduct, across the treacherous sands of the desert...through range after range of mountains, we have followed an army of thirty-five thousand workers in their fight to accomplish what was once considered a fantastic dream of bringing water across the desert. Seven years have passed since the great task first began...Today that task is finished. The most difficult engineering feat ever attempted by man now stands complete... finished this very afternoon...two hundred miles of tunnels, siphons, and open canals...smooth white concrete, wide as a four lane highway and ready to bring the sparkling water, of the distant Colorado River, across mountain and desert to the coastal plains of Southern California. The long battle is over. Out on the vast reaches of the desert, the last of a great battalion of thirty-five thousand men and machines are disbanding, and for the first time in seven years, silence returns to the arid wastelands. The job is done...just two

(CONTINUED)

ANNOUNCER: (Cont'd) hours ago, officials and representatives of the Metropolitan Water District, witnessed the placing of the last concrete at the West Portal of the San Jacinto Tunnel, the thirteen mile tunnel, ripped, blasted and blown through the solid granite of the mountain. The shouting and the tumult is over now, and the quiet of the desert night has settled over stately Mt. San Jacinto. It is fitting that we who have followed the building of this great aqueduct through the years, should choose this time for our view of the finished work. With the flip of a switch here in our Hollywood Studios, we reach out to where another Columbia announcer is waiting at the West Portal of the San Jacinto Tunnel...ninety miles east!

(SWITCH TO WEST PORTAL)

SOUND: POWER SHOVEL...HOLD IN BACKGROUND THROUGHOUT

SECOND ANNCR: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We're speaking to you from the West Portal of the San Jacinto Tunnel, ninety miles inland from Los Angeles...two hundred and twenty miles from Parker Dam, on the Colorado River. This evening, as the sun goes down, shadows move up the slope of lofty San Jacinto behind us, the curtain falls on the final act of one of the greatest dramas of the West. This afternoon, the last concrete was poured, and the

(CONTINUED)

SECOND ANNCR: (Cont'd) ceremonies marking the finishing of this two hundred and forty-two mile main line of the Metropolitan Aqueduct were concluded. Now the greater part of the crowd gathered here this afternoon has left, and we can look out over a setting far different from that which we described from this same spot some months ago. In the place of a battery of giant mixers, trains, trucks and other machines working night and day to supply concrete for the tunnel, one lone power shovel is scooping up dirt to cover the last link in the aqueduct, leading out of the tunnel mouth. Up on the hill where the construction buildings stood, there is now only bare ground.

The job is done, and the army of men who lived and worked here have moved on, taking their machines and their houses with them. All along the line between here and Parker Dam, two hundred and twenty miles to the east, the men who spent seven years in making this aqueduct a reality are clearing camps and traveling on to other construction jobs. It's hard to realize that this all began way back in October, 1923, when the first party of engineers set out across the vast expanses of desert to the east of this point, to find a way to bring water from the Colorado River to this Southern California coastal plain. (PAUSE)

(CONTINUED)

SECOND ANNCR: (Cont'd) Almost exactly sixteen years later, just two hours ago, they placed the last concrete which completed the building of the main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct, with an ultimate capacity of one thousand million gallons of water per day.

The building of this water system has been one of the biggest construction jobs ever attempted in the history of the world. Actual work on this part of the project has been under way since Christmas Eve, 1932, and since that time it has been a relentless battle against the forces of Nature. It has been a battle fought by an army of thirty-five thousand men, and it has been going on twenty-four hours a day, day in and day out, for the last seven years.

Now the victory has been won. Let's take a look at the scene here on this final battleground.

THIRD ANNCR: I'm standing on top of the last section of the aqueduct to be completed. A transition structure. Actually it is a connecting link between the west portal of the San Jacinto Tunnel and the Casa Loma Siphon. The thirteen-mile-long San Jacinto Tunnel has become world famous among construction men, because it is considered to be the most difficult tunnel that has ever been driven. Mt. San Jacinto, which reaches over two miles into the air, is a part of a towering chain of mountains that form

(CONTINUED)

THIRD ANNCR: (Cont'd) a natural barrier of solid granite between the coastal plain of Southern California and thousands of square miles of burning desert. The thirteen-mile aqueduct tunnel, which has been driven under the heart of this peak, is but one of thirty-eight separate tunnels, totaling in length over one hundred miles. The main aqueduct, which was completed this afternoon, is two hundred and forty-two miles long, and its completion marks the major victory, because through it there will be placed on the coastal plain of Southern California an abundant, everlasting, and controlled supply of water.

SECOND ANNCR: You might say, Larry, that this last structure is a gateway to the future....a future of security for millions of people. Southern California is semi-arid by nature and is located on the edge of the Great American Desert. The normal rainfall in Southern California's coastal plain is but fifteen inches per year, as compared to two and three times that amount of rainfall in other habitable parts of the United States. In spite of this, Southern California has become one of the great population centers of the nation, built on a basis of agricultural and industrial wealth. This has been made possible in a large measure by drawing heavily on underground water supplies

(CONTINUED)

SECOND ANNCR: (Cont'd) which Nature had slowly accumulated during the passing centuries. Nearly two decades ago it became apparent that disaster, in the form of Drought, was facing Southern California. The ever increasing demand for water for domestic, industrial, and agricultural purposes was taking water from the underground reserves at a far greater rate than Nature could replace it. It would only be a matter of time until the underground reserves were completely gone. Adding to the problem was the fact that the only available supply of additional water was the Colorado River...three hundred miles away...clear across the state of California. It was a problem that demanded heroic action. Fortunately, there are in Southern California people who have the courage to take heroic measures....thirteen cities in Southern California banded together to make a common fight against the impending disaster. They organized themselves as The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. They set for themselves the awe-inspiring task of financing, building, and operating the greatest domestic water supply system that the world has ever known. They voted two hundred and twenty million dollars of their own money, and sent great armies of men out into the deserts to create a man-made river. They

(CONTINUED)

SECOND ANNCR: (Cont'd) established their organization on an ultra-modern basis and created a Board of Directors of hard-headed and clear-thinking business and professional men to supervise the job. The members of this Board of Directors are the representatives of the thirteen cities which comprise the Water District. Their job is taken as a matter of civic duty, and they serve their communities entirely without pay. For more than a decade these cities and their representatives have carried on their job and have stood by their guns in spite of seemingly unsurmountable difficulties and in spite of those who said it couldn't be done. Today, these cities celebrated the fact that it <u>has</u> been done. As a part of their ceremony they unveiled a bronze plaque placed in this transition structure to mark the spot where their victory was won. That plaque is imbedded in the concrete here beside me. Dusk is closing in rapidly now and it's becoming quite dark, but in spite of that the lettering on this plaque seems to stand out as an unfaltering record of what can be accomplished by courage and determination. Let's look for a moment at that inscription. It reads as follows:

THIRD ANNCR: "The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California...Colorado River Aqueduct....Transition structure connecting West Portal San Jacinto Tunnel

(CONTINUED)

THIRD ANNCR: (Cont'd) and Casa Loma Siphon...Last structure on main aqueduct to be completed....October fourteenth, 1939....Length, main aqueduct two hundred and forty-two miles. Initial distribution system, one hundred and fifty miles....Ultimate capacity, one billion gallons per day....Here Colorado River Water enters the coastal plain of Southern California to serve cities and areas within The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California."

SECOND ANNCR: And just below that inscription, the cities have placed the names of their leaders, the men who have directed this great enterprise. Here are the officers of the District.

THIRD ANNCR: W. P. Whitsett, Chairman Board of Directors... Franklin Thomas, Vice-Chairman...S. H. Finley, Secretary Board of Directors....F. E. Weymouth, General Manager and Chief Engineer.

SECOND ANNCR: And here are the names of these thirteen cities, and their representatives on the Board of Directors. ....Anaheim.

THIRD ANNCR: Represented by E. P. Hapgood.

SECOND ANNCR: Beverly Hills.

THIRD ANNCR: Arthur Taylor.

SECOND ANNCR: Burbank.

THIRD ANNCR: J. L. Norwood.

SECOND ANNCR: Compton.

THIRD ANNCR: Warren W. Butler.

SECOND ANNCR: Fullerton.

THIRD ANNCR: Walter Humphreys.

SECOND ANNCR: Glendale.

THIRD ANNCR: Herman Nelson.

SECOND ANNCR: Long Beach.

THIRD ANNCR: W. M. Cook.

SECOND ANNCR: Pasadena.

THIRD ANNCR: Franklin Thomas.

SECOND ANNCR: San Marino.

THIRD ANNCR: John H. Ranboz.

SECOND ANNCR: Santa Ana.

THIRD ANNCR: S. H. Finley.

SECOND ANNCR: Santa Monica.

THIRD ANNCR: Arthur P. Creel.

SECOND ANNCR: Torrance.

THIRD ANNCR: Charles T. Rippy.

SECOND ANNCR: And....Los Angeles.

THIRD ANNCR: Represented by Otto J. Emme...Perry H. Greer.... Louis S. Nordlinger....D. W. Pontius...John R. Richards...V. H. Rossetti...and W. P. Whitsett.

SECOND ANNCR: These men are the leaders, and working with them were thousands upon thousands of other men and women who have toiled to bring this project to a successful conclusion. Their names were too numerous to inscribe on this bronze plaque, but their names <u>have</u> been recorded for history and this afternoon a sealed copper box, bearing the

(CONTINUED)

SECOND ANNCR: (Cont'd) name and classification of every man and woman employed on the project was placed in this concrete structure...Standing here beside me now is one of men whose name we read to you a moment ago. He is Mr. Victor H. Rossetti, representative of Los Angeles on the Board of Directors of the District and Chairman of the Public Relations Committee. Mr. Rossetti, this has been a big day in the history of Southern California, but for you, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District, it has undoubtedly had some special significance.

ROSSETTI: By the completion of the main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct today, the people of the thirteen cities of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have provided themselves with a bounteous supply of good water that will insure them, their homes, and their industries forever against the possibility of a water shortage. The cost of the Colorado River Aqueduct system will amount to approximately $200,000,000, and this cost is being borne directly and solely by the people residing within the Metropolitan Water District. Our people know that the expenditure of this huge sum of money is in reality a sound and essential investment. We know that the money invested in

(CONTINUED)

ROSSETTI: (Cont'd)

this great water project will be returned to our people a hundred fold.

Nature has been lavish in her gifts to Southern California. Only one vital necessity has she failed to give to our people in great abundance - and that necessity is water. Today, our people of the thirteen cities of the Metropolitan Water District have provided for themselves an everlasting and dependable supply of water, and thus the value of every home, business, and industry in these thirteen cities has been insured for all time. Furthermore, this great and new supply of water will amply and richly meet the requirements of the millions of new homeseekers who will settle in this favored land in the coming years.

The planning and the building of the Colorado River Aqueduct has been a task so great and so complex that even those of us who are very close to it find it difficult to grasp its immensity and its tremendous significance. It is a history-making engineering accomplishment without parallel in our country.

Under the leadership of Frank E. Weymouth, our General Manager and Chief Engineer, the engineering and construction problems and difficulties which attend such an enormous enterprise have been successfully overcome, and there stands completed

(CONTINUED)

ROSSETTI: (Cont'd) today a gigantic, man-made waterway which in itself is a shining tribute to the ability, the loyalty, and the tireless efforts of the men who did the work. And it is a tribute to the clear vision and the courage of our people who have authorized the necessary bond issue to finance the job.

The members of the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are proud of the great public services that have been rendered by Frank E. Weymouth, his staff of engineering assistants, and by the thousands of men whose toil has built the aqueduct. Personally, I am proud that I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors that has guided to a successful consummation this great and essential project.

SECOND ANNCR: Thank you, Mr. Rossetti...Out here in the shadow of Mt. San Jacinto it's really getting dark now and they've switched on a number of big flood lights so that the construction crew can go ahead with its job of moving out equipment and final clean-up work. It's been interesting to watch these men here on this last job. They seem to go about their work in the same sure and methodical manner with which they have built every part of this great aqueduct.

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SECOND ANNCR: (Cont'd) These men, like all of the other thousands and thousands who have helped to build the Metropolitan Aqueduct, are residents of the thirteen cities that comprise the Water District. To these workmen it's something more than just a job, because they're helping to pay for this aqueduct. They're joint owners in the project, and they and their children for generations to come will receive the benefits of the water that the aqueduct will provide. It is only natural, therefore, that there has been established a tradition of first-class workmanship on this job. It's a reputation that has spread far and wide, and I am told that men who have worked on the Metropolitan Aqueduct are given high preference in employment on other construction jobs and in other types of industry. These men here on this job tonight are carrying on with that tradition right to the final gun...Underneath us, and stretching for thirteen miles through....Mt. San Jacinto, the San Jacinto tunnel is now completed and ready to carry water. We're going to go in the tunnel for a last look, and while we're moving our microphone to the new location we're going to give you a concrete example of how tremendous this project is. This program opened in our Hollywood studios, ninety miles from where I'm talking. (CONTINUED)

SECOND ANNCR: (Cont'd) The other end of this aqueduct is two hundred and twenty miles farther east, on the edge of another state! Listen to the voice of another Columbia announcer, who at this moment is standing on the top of Parker Dam on the Colorado River.

(SWITCH TO PARKER DAM)

SOUND: WATER ROARING THROUGH GATES OF PARKER DAM...HOLD UP FULL FOR TEN SECONDS AND LOWER JUST UNDER ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

FOURTH ANNCR: I'm speaking to you now from the very center of Parker Dam on the Colorado River. You know, this river is the boundary between California and Arizona, so I actually have one foot in California and the other in Arizona. It may be interesting to note too, that it is one hour later here...that's really making up time in a hurry. That tremendous roar that you hear back of my voice is the sound of the mighty Colorado as it rushes through the five giant gates of Parker Dam. Let's take a moment to orient ourselves. We are now approximately three hundred miles east of Los Angeles and the other cities in the Metropolitan Water District and one hundred fifty miles south, that is downstream, from Boulder Dam. At this moment I'm looking downstream and watching the Colorado River as it flows on south.

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FOURTH ANNCR: (Cont'd) Back of me is the beautiful Lake Havasu which is formed by Parker Dam, and on the California side, just two miles upstream from here is the Intake pumping plant of the giant Metropolitan Aqueduct. Parker Dam has two purposes, first, the creation of Lake Havasu which is a huge fifty-mile-long reservoir from which water is pumped into the Metropolitan Aqueduct, and second, it regulates and controls the flow of the Colorado River. Because it is an integral part of the Metropolitan Aqueduct system, Parker Dam was built by the Federal Government with funds supplied by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Although we left our Columbia Square studios in Hollywood early this morning, it took us the greater part of the day to make our way here to the eastern boundary of California. Believe me, friends, during that long ride we were really impressed with the greatness and magnitude of this mighty Metropolitan Aqueduct system. As we traveled for hour after hour over mountain passes, and across vast stretches of barren deserts, we talked of the early survey parties that charted a route for the aqueduct across this very desert before there were any roads or communication systems, and we agreed that it took real men to do that pioneering job. (CONTINUED)

FOURTH ANNCR: (Cont'd) But above all, we began to realize the tremendous imagination and courage that it must have taken to even dream about building a waterway across those endless miles of burning hot, unexplored, and uninhabited wastelands. And we began to have a real understanding of the meaning of the words imagination..courage..determination..and action.. when we saw that the dream of those pioneers had been turned into a reality. For, paralleling our path, mile after mile, was the aqueduct. Sometimes we could see its open canal sections close at hand. At other times on a distant horizon we could see the long scar that the work of building the buried conduits has left on the face of the desert. Often this scar led into the foot of a towering mountain and disappeared, marking the spot where another aqueduct tunnel had been blasted through a mountain's heart. The road we traveled had to go around these mountains, but, sooner or later as we came to the far side of the mountain range we would see either the trail of the conduit or an open canal leading out of the mountain and disappearing over the horizon. At other places the aqueduct led right up to the base of a sheer cliff and its great shining steel pipe line climbed straight up the side of that cliff for three or

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FOURTH ANNCR: (Cont'd) four hundred feet. Then, it either vanished into the side of the mountain, or did a seemingly impossible tightrope walk along the top of razor sharp mountain ridges. At three different points along our route we saw beautiful blue lakes that have been created by the aqueduct in the very heart of the desert. One of these, Hayfield reservoir, we could see for many miles before we reached its edge. As we approached, there was considerable doubt whether it was a real lake or a desert mirage, because that sparkling banner of deep blue in the center of a vast stretch of flat tan desert seemed almost unreal. The other two lakes, which are known as the Copper Basin and the Gene Basin reservoirs, look like the jewel lakes of some alpine region. They are set deep in these two desert basins and are completely surrounded by sheer cliffs and towering peaks which rise straight up from the water's edge for hundreds of feet. Here the colors are brilliant and primitive. The lakes themselves are more than two hundred feet deep in places, and their deep, deep blue is in sharp contrast to the vivid reds of the jagged cliffs and peaks which surround them. It's beautiful country, but it is a savage beauty with nothing soft or smooth about it. It is a country

(CONTINUED)

FOURTH ANNCR: (Cont'd) that did not readily accommodate itself to the desires of man, and the aqueduct builders had to conquer every foot of it by sheer force. In spite of the fact that it has been a conquest by force of arms...dynamite and steel and power...the result is beauty.

Over on the coastal plain today the aqueduct builders celebrated the completion of their major job. But, rather than ending a chapter, they are in reality beginning a new chapter. This new chapter will tell of the forward march of a new empire. And the basis on which this new chapter will be written are these great works of concrete and steel whose story is already written...a story of imagination, and courage, and tireless labor. The story of a fighting clan of aqueduct builders who took a dare from Nature, and won. A story of men who took part of a river three hundred and ninety-two miles to serve their needs and the needs of their children for generations to come. Back on the edge of the coastal plain these aqueduct builders are moving out of their last big job. We're going to switch you back there now for one last look at their man-made river before they bury it and turn into its channel a part of this flood of roaring water which has been harnessed here at Parker Dam.

SOUND: BRING UP SOUND OF WATER FULL AND HOLD FOR SEVEN SECONDS BEFORE SWITCH TO WEST PORTAL SAN JACINTO TUNNEL.

(SWITCH TO WEST PORTAL SAN JACINTO TUNNEL)

SOUND: NO BACKGROUND SOUND AS ANNOUNCER COMES ON AIR.

THIRD ANNCR: For the last time we are taking our microphone into the underground gloom of the Metropolitan Aqueduct's famous San Jacinto tunnel. It presents a far different aspect tonight than it has on the other occasions when Columbia's crews have brought you on the spot descriptions of the building of this thirteen-mile link in the aqueduct. Tonight it is dimly lighted, and empty. My voice echoes and resounds in this long concrete-lined chamber which goes under the very heart of towering Mount San Jacinto. On our other visits we have had to shout into our microphones to make our voices heard over the tremendous roar and clatter of the construction machinery. At one time there was a bedlam of sound in here...the roar of batteries of powerful drills battering their way into the solid granite face of the tunnel as it was being driven ...the clank and clatter of the trains of the vast underground railroad which was used in this construction work...and the heavy rumble of the great pumpcrete machines which mixed and placed

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THIRD ANNCR: (Cont'd) the thousands of cubic yards of concrete which went into the smooth lining of the tunnel. And intermingled with these sounds were the lesser and varied sounds of the hundreds of hard rock miners as they went about their tasks of driving this most difficult of all tunnels. When we were in here before, it was impossible to carry on an ordinary conversation, over the din. Tonight, the men and equipment and roaring construction noises are gone and the only sound is the rush of air sweeping through this thirteen-mile tunnel from the desert. The long tunnel acts like a great speaking tube, and by speaking in just an ordinary tone of voice I believe it would be possible to talk to someone many hundreds of feet up the tunnel. Our guide on this last underground tour is the man under whose direction this tunnel was built. He is Mr. B. C. Leadbetter, General Superintendent of the San Jacinto tunnel. Mr. Leadbetter, how thick is the concrete lining that you've placed here in the tunnel?

LEADBETTER: Well, it varies in some places due to the type of rock the tunnel goes through, but I'd say it averages about two feet in thickness.

THIRD ANNCR: Well, you certainly have made a nice looking job of it. It looks as clean and smooth as the inside of

(CONTINUED)

THIRD ANNCR: (Cont'd) some great marble hall. It does seem sort of lonely in here, though, with all the men gone. I wonder if...

SOUND: DISTANT ROAR OF CONCRETE GRINDING MACHINE

(GIVES IT A TAKE)...What's that noise?...I thought the tunnel was empty.

LEADBETTER: Oh, that's just one of our grinding crews polishing up a few spots in the lining.

THIRD ANNCR: I can't see anyone.

LEADBETTER: No, they're working a couple of miles up the tunnel. You remember, you said yourself just a moment ago that the tunnel acts like a giant speaking tube.

SOUND: DISTANT ROAR OF MACHINE CONTINUES INTERMITTENTLY

THIRD ANNCR: That's right, I forgot. By the way, you said they were polishing the lining. I've noticed how smooth and shiny the lining is, but I didn't realize you actually polished it.

LEADBETTER: We don't polish the entire surface. The steel forms that we used when we placed the lining gave the concrete this smooth glass-like appearance. But sometimes there were little rough spots left where the forms were hinged and we've gone along and ground those spots down to make them as smooth as the rest of the lining.

THIRD ANNCR: What other work is there left to do?

LEADBETTER: That's all. The crew will be out of here tonight or tomorrow and then we're all ready for water.

THIRD ANNCR: When will you put the first water through here?

LEADBETTER: Our present plans call for the first water to come through here in about two weeks.

THIRD ANNCR: Well, I guess that does prove that the work on this main line of the Metropolitan Aqueduct is completed. This spot where I'm standing now with this microphone was solid granite, a part of the great stone base of Mount San Jacinto...the final barrier in the struggle to bring water to the West...and now this thirteen-mile tunnel stands as the crowning achievement in this most famous of all construction projects...the last link connecting by a four hundred mile waterway the Colorado River and the Pacific slope of California. We are speaking now the last words which will ever come from this man-made corridor here under Mount San Jacinto. In a few weeks these walls will echo only the gurgle of blue water from the Colorado River, and never again will a human voice or the sound of a machine disturb the slumbers of the old Indian Devil who lives in the mountain.

One of the men who came here this afternoon to participate in the ceremonies celebrating the completion of the main line of the Metropolitan Aqueduct is here with us in the tunnel. Here is a man to whom the occasion has a great deal of

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THIRD ANNCR: (Cont'd) significance. He is one of these leaders we spoke about whose belief in the future of this western empire, coupled with courage and determination have made this day possible.

We deem it a real honor, therefore, to present Mr. W. P. Whitsett, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. To Mr. Whitsett falls the honor of speaking the last human words which will echo through and be broadcast from San Jacinto tunnel before it is sealed forever...

Mr. Whitsett.

WHITSETT: We who gathered here today have stood in the presence of an historic event. We have witnessed the actual completion of the main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct, the greatest construction job of its kind ever to be brought to successful completion in America.

"The main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct has been completed." This is the report - this is the message which we today are able to give to the citizens of the thirteen golden cities which comprise The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. This is the report which we today are able to give to all the world. This is the report which we are able to give to those who, in years gone by, have said, "It can't be done."

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WHITSETT: (Cont'd)

Back of this report of accomplishment stand twenty years of bold and practical dreams of a mighty water supply system that will forever free the cities of the Metropolitan Water District from the menace of drought. Twenty years of careful, expert planning by the most competent and able group of engineering authorities ever assembled on a similar project. Twenty years of tireless work on the part of public spirited citizens who have given their unwavering support to the end that a vital and essential public enterprise might be successfully consummated. And finally, during the past seven years of this period -- all these dreams and these plans have been wrought into a gigantic structure of reality by the toil and the loyalty of the great army of aqueduct workmen who have now brought to completion the actual construction of the major part of a gigantic water supply system that will bring an everlasting flood of life-giving water from the Colorado River to each of the cities within The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

The completion of the main aqueduct today signalizes the final victory in the long war that our people have waged against the Desert and against the menace of Drought. Through the portal of this tunnel

(CONTINUED)

WHITSETT: (Cont'd) which pierces the towering barrier of Mt. San Jacinto there now shall come a constant, abundant, controlled supply of water. Water - the priceless possession of a desert land. Water - to build and sustain a new Empire upon the shores of the Pacific. (SWITCH TO TRANSITION STRUCTURE)

SECOND ANNCR: Thank you very much, Mr. Whitsett. After those final words from inside the tunnel we've transferred controls to this position outside the portal again. It's completely dark now and one of the greatest days in the history of Southern California has come to a close. On this day, October 14, 1939, man has completed the last link in a great aqueduct that will bring water from the Colorado River to the coastal plain of Southern California. Although the curtain is dropping fast on the great drama of the building of this mighty Metropolitan Aqueduct, it is not a final curtain. All this, dramatic and breath-taking as it has been, has been but a prelude for the great drama that now begins.. the drama of the growth and development of a great new western empire. An empire that is wealthy in homes and culture and commerce and industry and agriculture. An empire founded on the knowledge that it will forever have an abundance of the most vital necessity of life -- Water. All this has been (CONTINUED)

SECOND ANNCR: (Cont'd) made possible today by the completion of the main line of the great Metropolitan Aqueduct. Work is well under way on the aqueduct's vast distributing system, and sometime next year it will be able to begin regular operation on its job of delivering water to each of the thirteen Metropolitan Water District cities. However, in a matter of about two weeks, the first water from the Colorado River will flow through this transition structure on which I'm now standing, and will go on west to begin filling the mammoth Cajalco Reservoir. That day will mark the curtain riser on the great play for which all this has been the prelude. The Columbia Broadcasting System will bring you the events of that momentous occasion as it has brought you these other highlights in the battle for water. Watch for the time and date of this next program under the word "Water" in your newspaper radio log. This has been one of a series of programs arranged by the Western Division of Columbia's Department of Public Affairs to bring you the colorful story of man's conquest of drought on the semi-arid western slope of America. Your field announcers have been Larry Chatterton, Frank Graham and Dick Joy. Columbia's engineers on this broadcast are Alden Packard, James French, Ed Olds, and Herb Pangborn. This is the COLUMBIA...BROADCASTING SYSTEM.

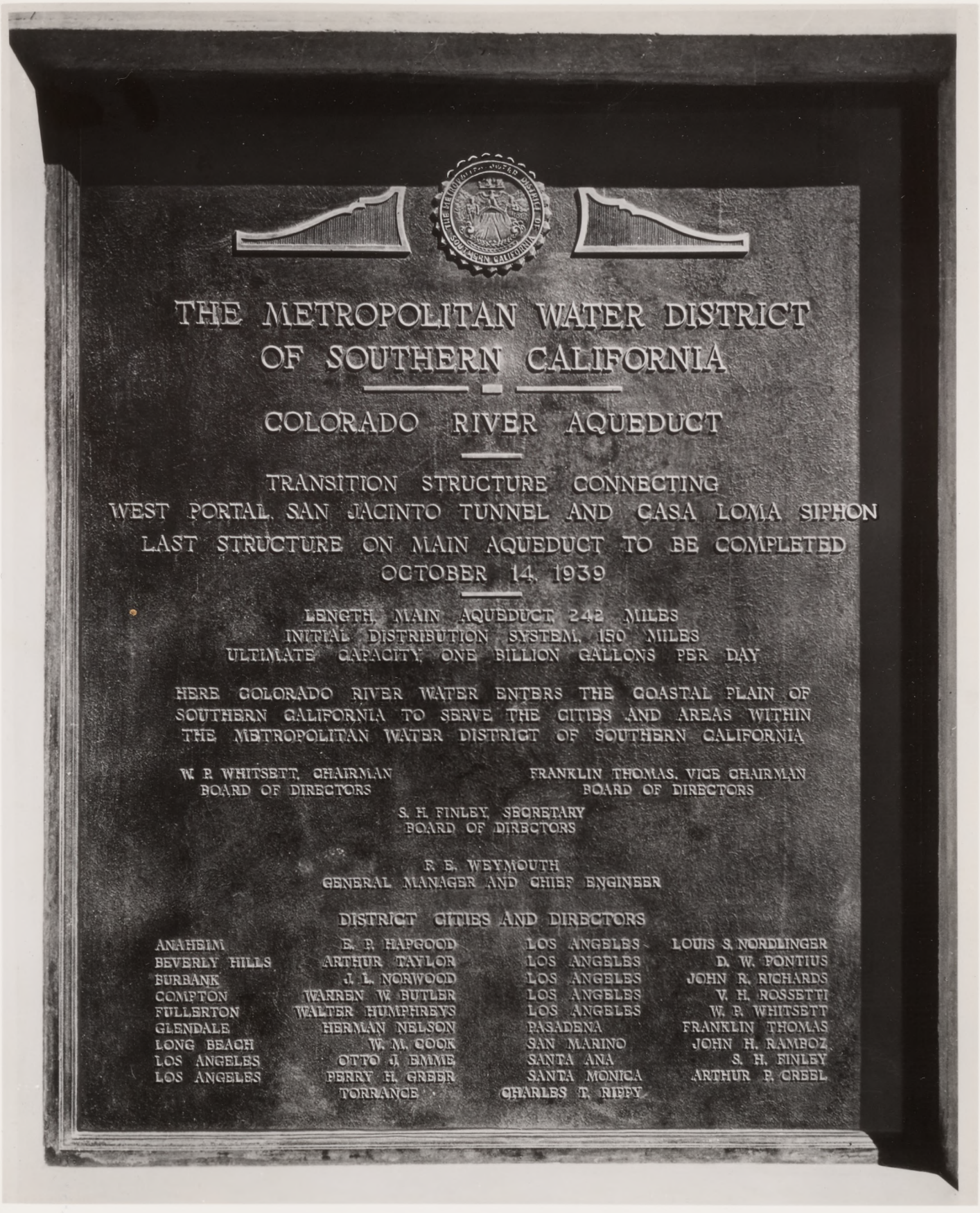
P H O T O G R A P H S

MAIN AQUEDUCT COMPLETION CEREMONY

*****

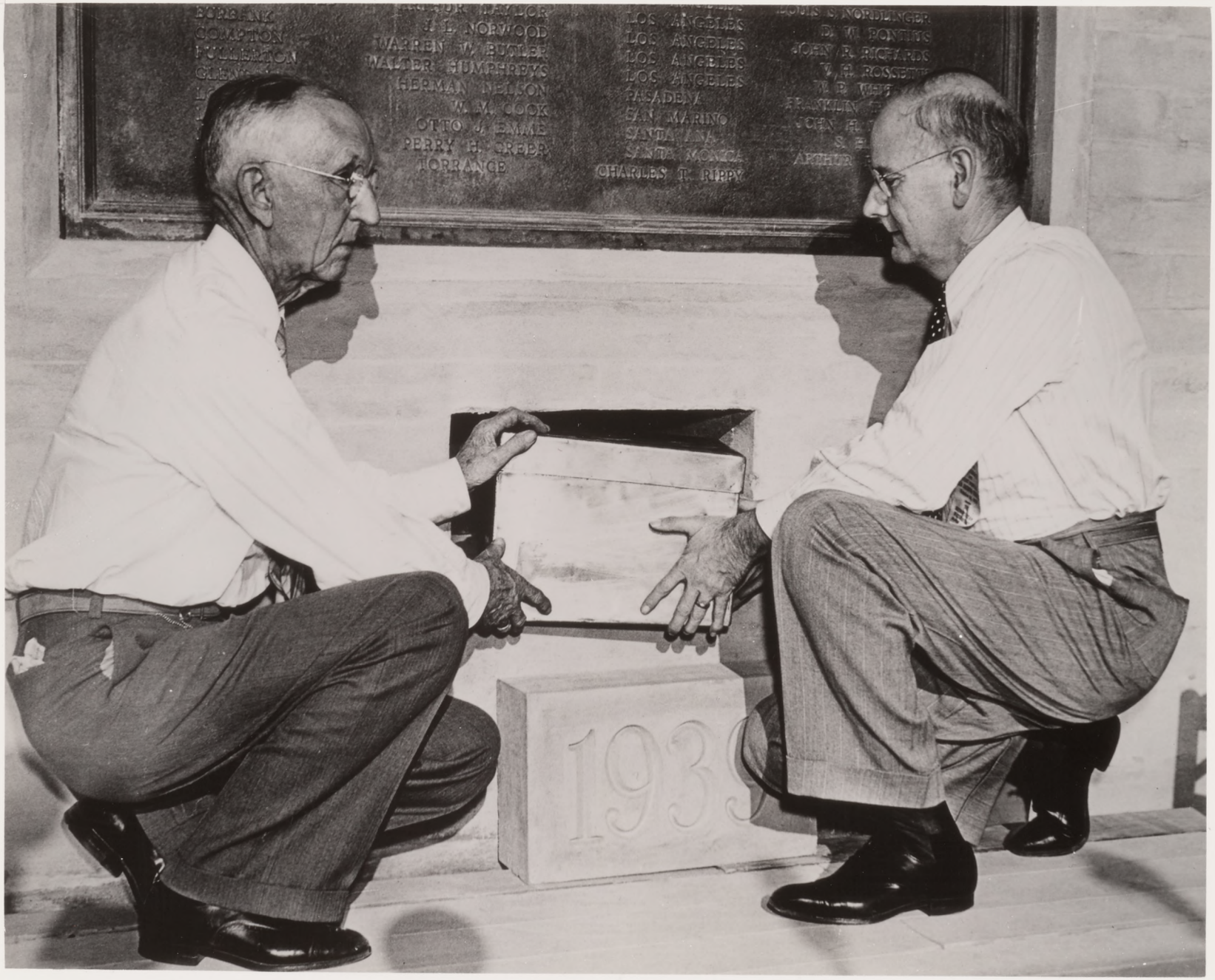
Director Victor H. Rossetti, Chairman of the Day

Chairman W. P. Whitsett and Director Victor H. Rossetti placing last concrete on the main aqueduct. At left, B. C. Leadbetter, General Superintendent on the job.

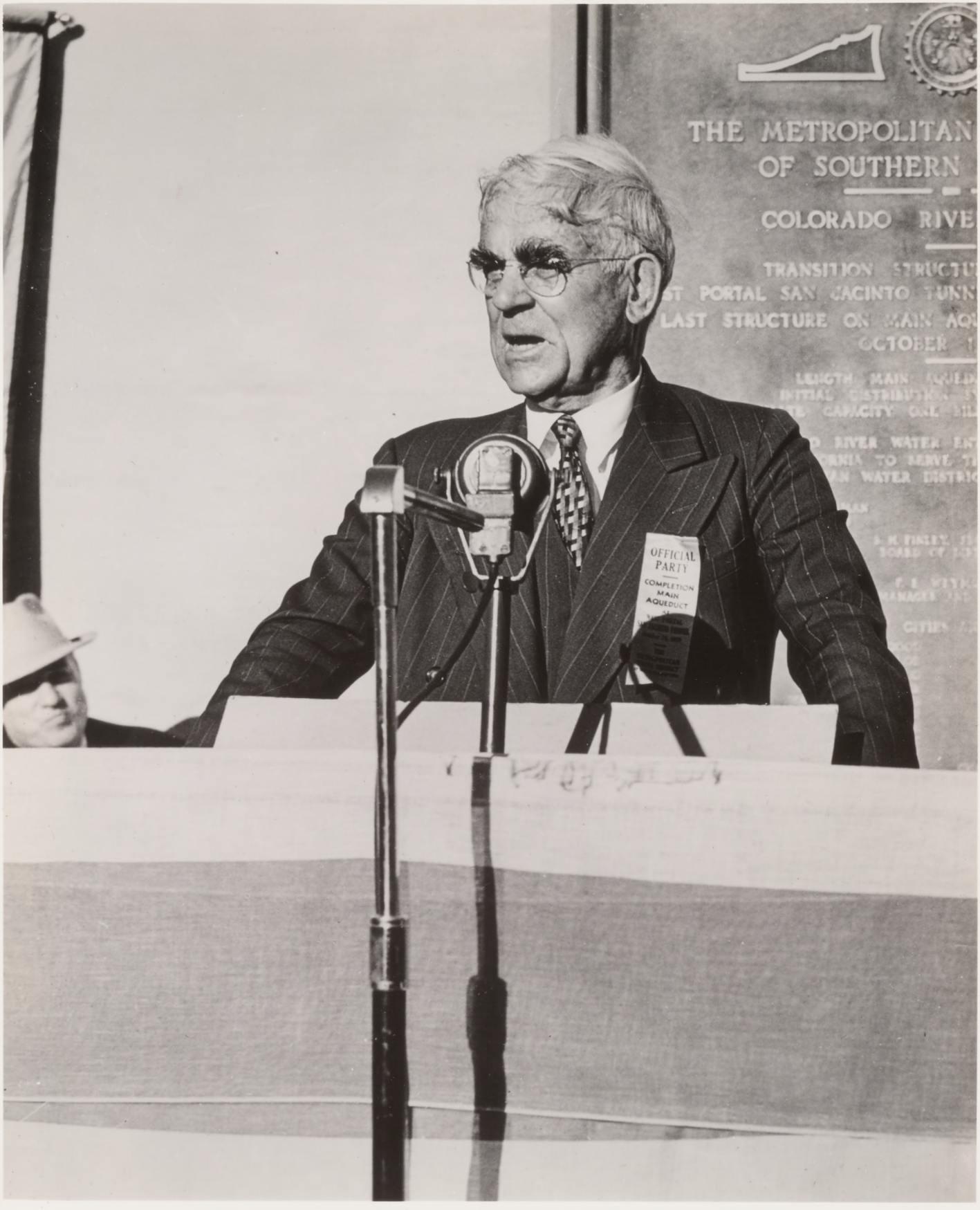

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
COLORADO RIVER AQUEDUCT
TRANSITION STRUCTURE CONNECTING
WEST PORTAL, SAN JACINTO TUNNEL AND CASA LOMA SIPHON
LAST STRUCTURE ON MAIN AQUEDUCT TO BE COMPLETED
OCTOBER 14, 1939
LENGTH, MAIN AQUEDUCT, 242 MILES
INITIAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, 150 MILES
ULTIMATE CAPACITY, ONE BILLION GALLONS PER DAY
HERE COLORADO RIVER WATER ENTERS THE COASTAL PLAIN OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO SERVE THE CITIES AND AREAS WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
W. P. WHITSETT, CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FRANKLIN THOMAS, VICE CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
S. H. FINLEY, SECRETARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
F. E. WEYMOUTH GENERAL MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER
DISTRICT CITIES AND DIRECTORS
ANAHEIM E. P. HAPGOOD
BEVERLY HILLS ARTHUR TAYLOR
BURBANK J. L. NORWOOD
COMPTON WARREN W. BUTLER
FULLERTON WALTER HUMPHREYS
GLENDALE HERMAN NELSON
LONG BEACH W. M. COOK
LOS ANGELES OTTO J. EMME
LOS ANGELES PERRY H. GREER
TORRANCE
LOS ANGELES LOUIS S. NORDLINGER
LOS ANGELES D. W. PONTIUS
LOS ANGELES JOHN R. RICHARDS
LOS ANGELES V. H. ROSSETTI
LOS ANGELES W. P. WHITSETT
PASADENA FRANKLIN THOMAS
SAN MARINO JOHN H. RAMBOZ
SANTA ANA S. H. FINLEY
SANTA MONICA ARTHUR P. CRBEL
CHARLES T. RIPPY

Commemorative Plaque

Chairman W. P. Whitsett of the Board of Directors



Secretary S. H. Finley and Vice Chairman Franklin Thomas placing within the concrete structure the copper box containing official records of the District.



Mr. Joseph Scott

PROGRAM

MAIN AQUEDUCT COMPLETION CEREMONY

October 14, 1939

•

Chairman of the Day
Director Victor H. Rossetti
Chairman, Public Relations Committee
Board of Directors

•

Placing Last Concrete on Construction of Main Aqueduct
By Members of the Board of Directors

•

Report by F. E. Weymouth
General Manager and Chief Engineer

•

Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque
Above West Portal, San Jacinto Tunnel

•

Address by Chairman W. P. Whitsett
Board of Directors

•

Official Records of the District, including the Names of the 35,648 Men and Women Who Have Built the Aqueduct, Placed within Concrete Structure above West Portal by Vice Chairman Franklin Thomas and Secretary S. H. Finley of the Board of Directors

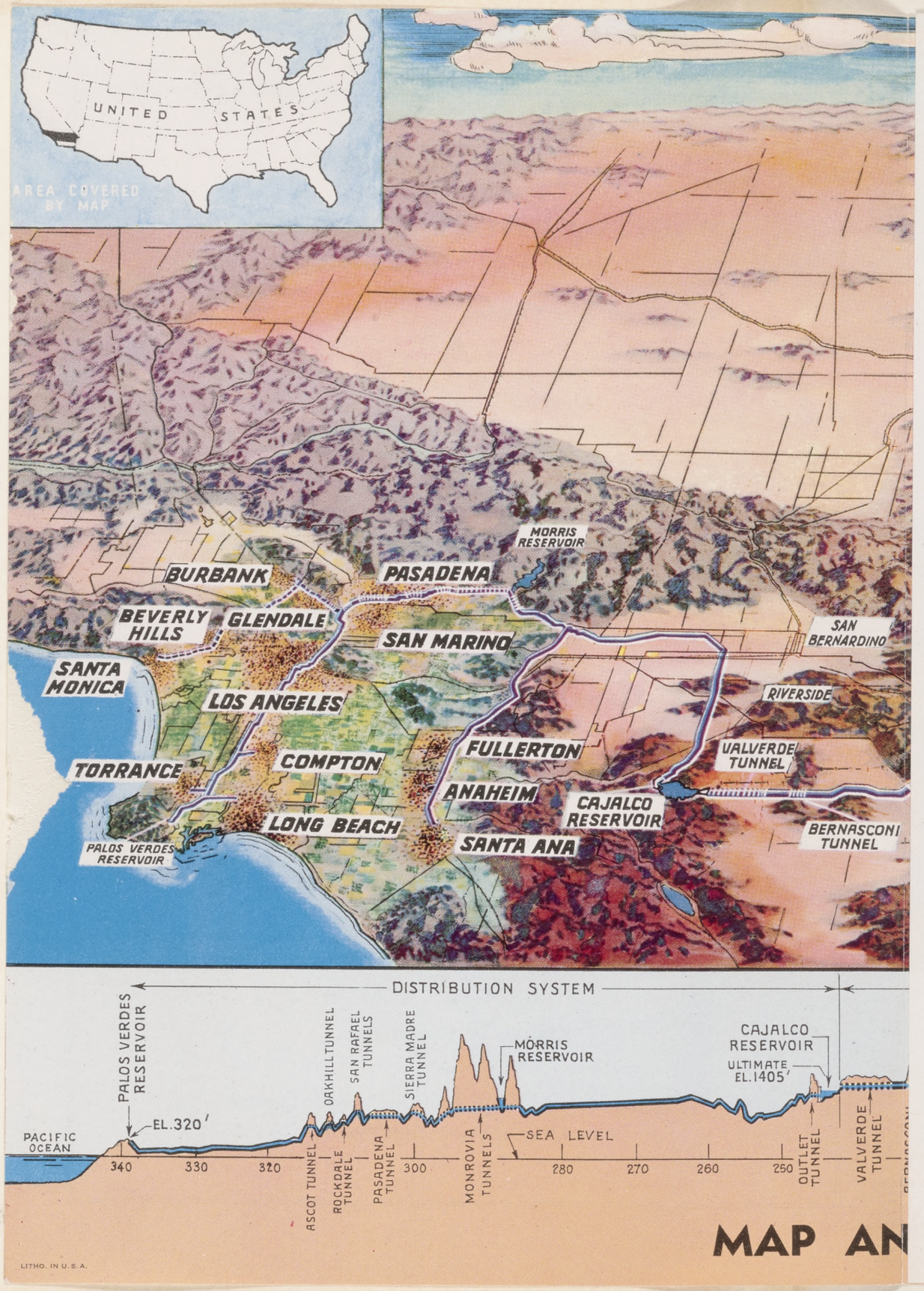
•

Address by Joseph Scott

•

Inspection of Completed San Jacinto Tunnel
by Official Party and Visitors

WHT.B.0171



MAP AN

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AQUEDUCT FACTS

The Colorado River Aqueduct is the largest domestic water supply system in the world. It extends across the entire state of California, and will deliver a thousand million gallons of water a day. Its water supply will be made available only to cities and areas now in or later to be permitted to annex to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. To these cities and areas the Aqueduct will provide an abundant, dependable and everlasting supply of good water.

THE DISTRICT

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a political subdivision of the State of California. It is composed of thirteen cities in Los Angeles and Orange counties. It was organized in 1928 in accordance with the provisions of an Act adopted by the State Legislature in 1927. Its purpose and function is to plan, finance, construct, and operate an aqueduct to deliver water from the Colorado River to each of the cities in the District.

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

The District is governed by a Board of Directors with each city in the District being represented by at least one director. No one city may exercise more than 50 per cent of the voting power. The chief administrative and engineering officer of the District is Frank E. Weymouth, General Manager and Chief Engineer.

NEED OF WATER

Southern California is a semi-arid region. Its average rainfall is 15 inches annually, far less than is required for dependable agricultural development, to say nothing of the needs of modern industrial cities.

For many years the water users on the Southern California Coastal Plain have been pumping out of underground reserves and using an average of 200,000,000 gallons of water per day more than Nature or man has been replacing. The result is a steady and dangerous depletion of local water resources. A large and dependable supply of additional water urgently is required to sustain present development and to insure future growth. The only available source of such a water supply is the Colorado River.

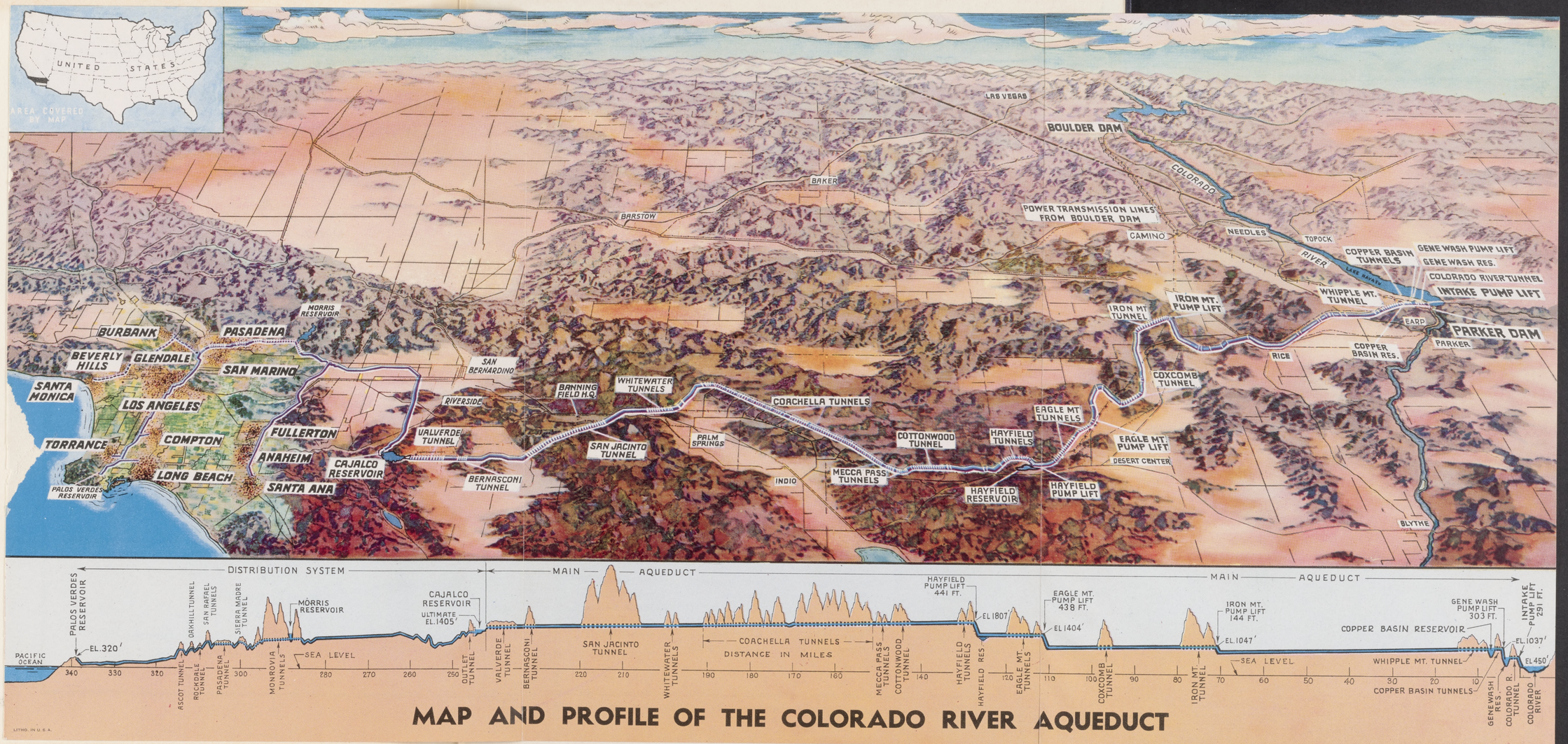
THE AQUEDUCT

First Colorado River Aqueduct surveys and studies were started in 1923 by the City of Los Angeles under direction of William Mulholland. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, established in 1928, continued and completed these investigations and plans. In September, 1931, the voters of the thirteen District cities, by a majority of five to one, authorized a bond issue of $220,000,000 to finance the cost of the Aqueduct. Aqueduct construction work was started in December, 1932. Funds required to meet engineering and construction costs have been obtained by sale of bonds to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. First water was delivered into the Aqueduct by Intake pumping plant on January 7, 1939.

Construction of the main line of the Aqueduct was completed on October 14, 1939. At that time the last concrete was placed on the transition structure connecting the West Portal of the San Jacinto tunnel with the Casa Loma siphon.

Actual cost of Aqueduct construction is $20,000,000 less than the original estimates.

WAT. B. 0171



MAP AND PROFILE OF THE COLORADO RIVER AQUEDUCT

WHT. B. 0171